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## **Skillets Joins the Growing Trend of Restaurants Going Tobacco Free**



## Contact:

Nina Garcia Nina.Garcia@flhealth.gov (239) 252-2672

**Naples, Fla. –** Skillets, a locally owned restaurant that has 5 locations within Collier County, has implemented a smokefree policy among the staff. Skillets first opened in 1995 with a mission to serve healthier breakfasts and lunches. This local restaurant has implemented a policy that makes the company non-smoking, and Skillets prohibits all tobacco use while an employee is clocked in. With the implementation of their tobacco free policy, Skillets has further enhanced its commitment to support its employees' efforts to cease the use of tobacco.

"Smoking tobacco is the single most preventable cause of disease and death. It has not only been shown to be a health risk for serious diseases but also exposes individuals to secondhand smoke," said Nina Garcia, Tobacco Prevention Program Manager at the Florida Department of Health in Collier County. "Seeing that more worksites are implementing policies such as this one validates that our outreach efforts are truly working and the community is becoming more receptive to these policies."

As a part of their tobacco free policy, Skillets will begin posting signage at their restaurants that notifies customers of the tobacco free policy in place. This sign will be a reminder to customers and employees not to use tobacco products, including ecigarettes, in or near the restaurant.

To find a Skillets near you visit https://www.skilletsrestaurants.com/

For more information on how to make your business tobacco free, contact Tobacco Free Collier at (239) 252-6852.

## **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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## **About Tobacco Free Florida**

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 212,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit <a href="www.tobaccofreeflorida.com">www.tobaccofreeflorida.com</a> or follow the campaign on Facebook at <a href="www.tobaccofreeflorida">www.tobaccofreeflorida</a> or on Twitter at <a href="www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla">www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla</a>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mann, Nathan M, Nonnemaker, James M., Thompson, Jesse. "Smoking-Attributable Health Care Costs in Florida and Potential Health Care Cost Savings Associated with Reduction in Adult Smoking Prevalence." 2016.